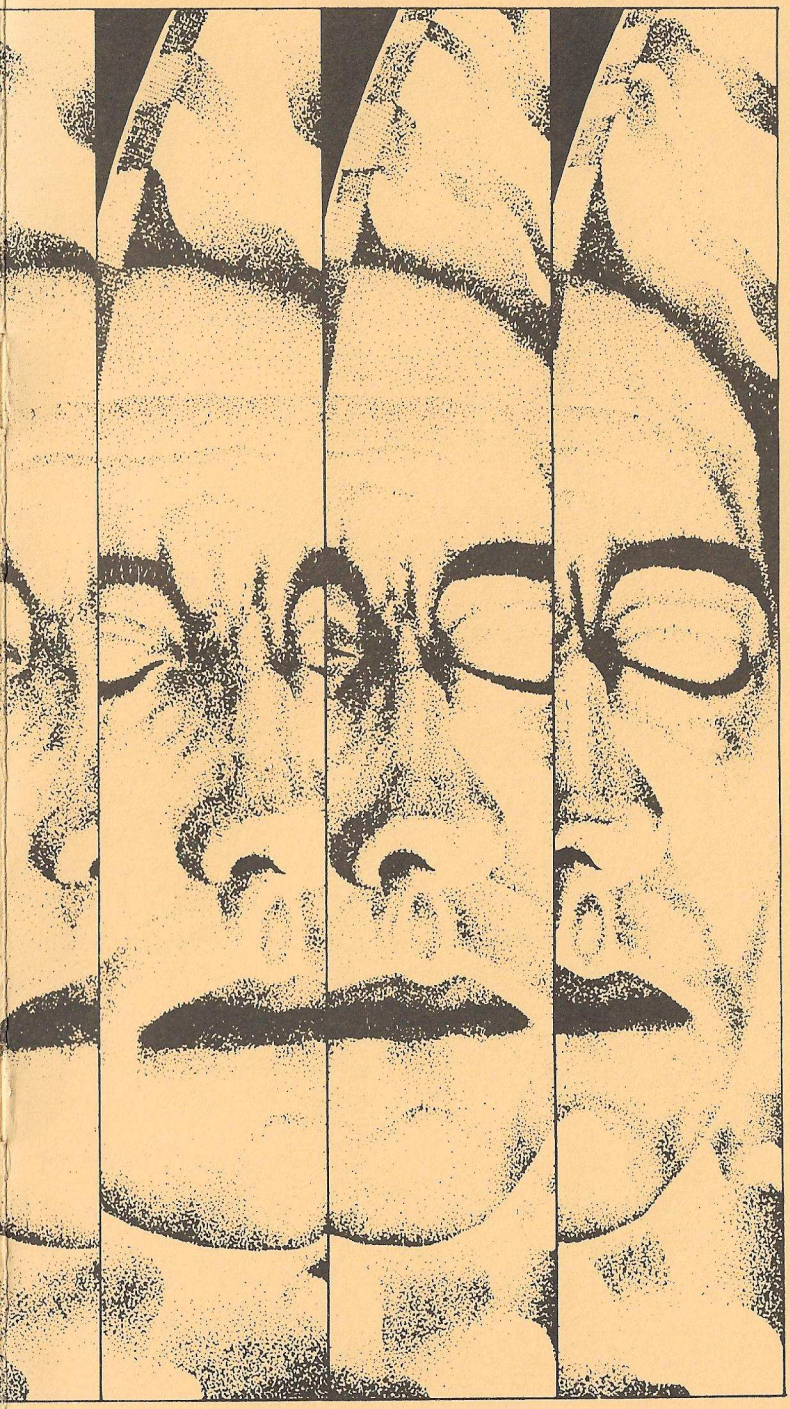


NOVACON 24

Progress Report One

NOVACON 24

Guest of Honour : Graham Joyce

Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th November 1994

COMMITTEE : **Richard Standage** is chair with **Carol Morton** doing Registrations; **Helena Bowles** as Treasurer; **Sarah Freakley** has taken on the Programme; **Chris Murphy** in charge of Ops; **Tony Morton** on Publications and **Martin Tudor** liaising with the hotel.

STAFF : **Mike Siddall**, responsible for the Bookroom; **John Harold** who will arrange the Artshow.

MEMBERSHIP and ENQUIRIES : This will cost £20 upto and including Eastercon rising to £25 until 1st October when postal memberships close, then £30 on the door. Carol Morton (14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS Tel: 0384 825386) is the person to send your cheques to and will try to answer any convention enquiries.

ROOM RATES : Twin/Double rooms will be £29.95 (per person) and Single rooms £34.95 per night.

ADVERTISING RATES : Advertising is welcome for the Progress Reports and the Programme Book at the following rates: PROGRESS REPORT 2 and 3 (Professional) £22.50 full page, £17.50 half page, £7.50 quarter page, £40 back cover; (Fan) £17 full page, £9.50 half page, £5 quarter page, £30 back cover. PROGRAMME BOOK (Professional) £40 full page, £25 half page, £15 quarter page, £60 back cover; (Fan) £22.50 full page, £12.50 half page, £7.50 quarter page, £40 back cover. Anyone interested should approach **Tony Morton** at 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS (0384 825386). Deadlines camera ready advertising copy 12th March (PR2), 6th August (PR3) and 24th September (Programme Book).

BOOKROOM RATES : Tables will cost £15 for a six foot table for the whole weekend however, if you are allocated a smaller four foot table the cost will be £10. To book a table you must be a member of the convention and fill in and return your booking form (which is included with this PR).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS : Our thanks go to **Graham Joyce** for his article, **Tim Groome** for the cover art, **Vernon Brown** for revealing the answers to the Novacon23 GCSE exam, **Steve Green** for his article on the film programme and **Tony Berry** for the Novas article.

PROGRESS REPORT TWO : More from Graham Joyce, further details on the film programme and the programme itself.

CHAIRMAN'S BIT
Richard Standage

Welcome to the first PR of Novacon 24. You should be receiving this a couple of weeks earlier than in recent years. This is our attempt to space the publications out better in the run up to the con. You will also notice that this year we've included a hotel booking form along with your membership form. We'd appreciate it if you could fill this out and return it asap to help us sought out our room bookings as early as we can.

So what about the convention itself? Firstly I'd like to introduce my committee. Carol Morton who did a superb job of chairing last year's Novacon is in charge of registrations this year. Tony Morton, fresh from his two year stint of chairing the Brum Group, is again doing publications following on from the excellent job he did last year. Chris Murphy who was involved in Novacon 21 and has also chaired the BSFG in the past is in charge of operations. Sarah Freakley is our young and enthusiastic newcomer in charge of programme. Helena Bowles who was ops supremo for Novacon 23 and chaired 22 is our treasurer. Finally we have Martin Tudor, a name I'm sure you are all familiar with, on hotel liaison.

We are very proud to welcome Graham Joyce as our guest of honour this year. Our programme will be very much geared to reflect Graham's superb books DREAMSIDE, DARK SISTER and HOUSE OF LOST DREAMS. This will be Graham's first convention as GoH and I'm sure you will agree he is an excellent choice as writer, fan and all round entertaining guy.

REGISTRATIONS
Carol Morton

You'll have received this envelope this morning, opened it, found PR1 for Novacon 24 and thought its a bit early isn't it? Well, yes, it is. We have decided to send out not only PR1 early but also the hotel booking form. This is for two good reasons. Firstly because the membership rates go up after Eastercon and those of you who will not be at the con will maybe want to take advantage of the lower price. Secondly because the hotel want all room bookings in early, so I must have your hotel booking form in by 20th September at the latest as that is the last date by which we can guarantee you a room in the Angus.

As we have returned to the Angus this year the dreaded membership limit may rear its ugly head again, so to beat the cut off point fill in the membership form and send it back to me along with the hotel booking form which must also come back to me - NOT the hotel. Remember first come first served, so get those forms back as quickly as possible.

PROGRAMME
Sarah Freakley

What can I say about the truly marvellous and spectacular programme we have planned so far??
- There will be films....
- There will be Games....
- There will be Panel Discussions....
- There will be Talks....
- There will be an Art Show....
- There will be a Book Room....
- It will be Fun....

And if anyone has any really fabulous ideas for a programme event, or events, please write to me, Sarah Freakley, 63 Medina Road, Tyseley, Birmingham, B11 3SA, or see me at BSFG meetings.

FILMSCAPE : DREAMSCAPE
By Steve Green

There are essentially two models for the convention film programme : a thematic assembly, with those movies chosen in some manner linked, and a diverse selection with no apparent commonality other than the technology used. Beyond these forms, both of which have their virtues, the programmer has the option of two approaches : to construct his or her itinerary from well known titles, possibly including recent video hits (as Novacon 23 did with SNEAKERS), or to trawl the archives for more obscure material (as Novacon 18 did with the long-lost short VIOLA, which I finally unearthed in a forgotten corner of the British Film Institute).

For Novacon 24, I've chosen thematic programming, with the accent partially on the obscure and partially on films which have been unfairly consigned to the backlist ranks by indifferent distribution. Given that Graham Joyce is the guest of honour, the theme of dreamscape was an obvious avenue to explore - and one which, Sarah Freakley informed me at MisDemeanour, the committee subsequently adopted for the entire programme, which fits in perfectly with my intention that the film stream shouldn't simply be used as a time filler but should fully integrate into the Novacon 24 experience.

Confining the film programme to the dream motif will not overly limit the choice of material, as I'll expand upon in the next progress report. For the meantime, I'm still interested in your own suggestions; my address is 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, Birmingham, B92 7LQ.

DREAMS & ILLUSIONS
Graham Joyce

When I was teaching in secondary education, between the usual bouts of crowd control while screaming for an electric cattle-prod, I often found myself marking fantastical stories from kids who always ended their stories with the works : *he woke up and found it was all a dream* . This used to get me jumping up and down and red in the face like old Mortar-Board from Bash Street. It became a hobby-horse of mine. I would bang on about it to the kids every time I set them a piece of writing. Perversely, I started to read the endings in the by now hope of flushing out a snivelling juvenile oneironaut to berate. I would scour the lines looking for dreamstains, nightmare spillages, any hint of the old *and then he woke up* cop-out.

'But sir, but sir -'

'Don't sir me sir. I've told you about that. Haven't I told you about that dreamthing? Haven't I? Now go and sit down and write it again'

You get the idea. Ton o' bricks. Treat 'em as if they were caught playing with themselves. Public humiliation.

Then I left teaching and had my first novel published. It was about some people who had some fantastical experiences while they were dreaming. Ooops.
What can I say? Anyway, kids aren't supposed to do what you do, they're supposed to do what you say. And what I say is that our dreams are a second life. I'm sure life would be enriched if only we could develop an amphibious capacity for engaging with our dreamstates as comprehensively as we deal with our waking states. Well, maybe more. Anyway that was the substance of my first novel DREAMSIDE, as the protagonists attempted to get to grips with the thrills and spills of LUCID DREAMING, is the ability to control the direction and outcome of one's dreams.

Basically the Promethean myth of retribution took over the novel; those who steal fire from the Gods shall be punished. This overshadowed the fact that it is actually possible for people to develop the capacity for lucid dreaming. The book contains some of the appropriate exercises for developing the muscle. I've tried them, and they do work : at least to a point. Different people have different capacities for lucidity in dreaming, but in my own case my unconscious mind gets the jitters when my conscious mind tries to take over the dream. It tends to buck me out of the saddle and gallop off. Usually when things are just beginning to get interesting and sexy.

I once ran into a lucid dream workshop at a science fiction convention. The idea was everyone meet up in their dreams, in the bar at 4 am. It failed because everyone was ALREADY in the bar at 4 am and they weren't dreaming.

Still that's your average SF fan for you. Decadent and depraved. Oh, then they woke up and found it was all reality . . . .

In the next Progress Report, Graham talks about Illusions.

NOVAS Tony Berry

The Nova awards are presented annually at Novacon for work in fanzines. Created in 1973 by the late Gillon Field there are three categories: Best Fanzine, Best Fanwriter, Best Fanartist. For a fanzine to qualify, one or more issues must have been published between 1st October 1993 and 30th September 1994. For a writer or artist to qualify, they must have at least one piece of work published for the first time between those dates.

Last year I did listings in the PRs of fanzines which I had received, followed by a full list at Novacon. This seemed to work well as there was a decent-sized number of votes cast. So I'll do it again this year.

Fanzines received since 1st October:

ANSIBLE #75-79. Dave Langford, 94 London Rd, Reading, RG1 5AU
BEERMAT #2. Bridget Hardcastle, 13 Lindfield Gardens, Hampstead, London, NW3 6PX.
BLACKBIRDS EGG #3. Richard Hewison, 44 Claremont Rd, Redland, Bristol, BS6 7ET.
BOB #6. Ian Sorensen, 7 Woodside Walk, Hamilton, Scotland, ML3 7HY.
CONRUNNER #19. Ian Sorensen.
DRAGONS BREATH #3. Tony Lee, Zine Kat c/o SA Publishing, 13 Hazely Coombe, Arreton, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AJ.
DRIVEL & DROOL #2. Mike Siddall, 133 Duke St, Askam-in-furness, Cumbria, LA16 7AE.
DREAMBERRY WINE. Mike Don, 233 Maine Rd, Manchester, MK14 7WG.
EMPTIES #12. Martin Tudor, 845 Alum Rock Rd, Ward End, Birmingham, B8 2AG.
FANS ACROSS THE WORLD #33-34. Bridget Wilkinson, 17 Mimosa, 28 Avenue Rd, Tottenham, N15 5JF.
FIT #15. Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas, 5a Frinton Rd, London, N15 6NH.
GAIJIN #3. Steve Green, 33 Scot Rd, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ.
GOTTERDAMMERUNG #5. c/o 110 North Parade, Belfast, BT7 N. Ireland.
THE LIGHT STUFF #9. Rhodri James, 18 Harvey Goodwin Ave, Cambridge, CB4 3EU.
NEVER QUITE ARRIVING. Christina Lake, 12 Hathaway Rd, Bishopton, Bristol, BS7 8AQ.
ORMOLU #2. Anne Green, 33 Scott Rd, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ.
OUTHOUSE #10. Ken Cheslin, 10 Coney Green, Stourbridge, W. Midlands, DY8 1LA.
PLATYPUS. Simon Ounsley, 25 Park Villa Court, Leeds, LS8 1EB.
RASTUS JOHNSONS CAKEWALK #2-4. Greg Pickersgill, 3 Bethany Row, Narbeth Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 2XG.
THE STARTLED BUNNY #1-2. Jackie McRoberts, 75 Balmalloch Road, Kilsyth, Glasgow G65 9NS.
THINGUMYBOB #9-10. Chuck Connor, Sildan House, Chediston Road, Wissett, Suffolk IP19 0NF.
WALLBANGER #14. Eve Harvey, 8 The Orchard, Tonwell, Herts SG12 0HR.

All of the above are available for "the usual" which means in return for letter of comment, trade, article, or a large sae. Enquiries about the Awards or a copy of the rules (50p to cover copying and postage), contact Tony Berry at 55 Seymour Rd, Oldbury, W. Midlands, B69 4EP.

MEMBERSHIP LIST AS AT 18 FEBRUARY 1994

001 Graham Joyce
002 Sue Joyce
003 Richard Standage
004 Carol Morton
005 Helena Bowles
006 Chris Murphy
007 Tony Morton
008 Sarah Freakley
009 Martin Tudor
010 Tim Groome
011 Stephen Baxter
012 Sandra Shepherd
013 David A. Hardy
014 Steve Green
015 Anne Green
016 Bob Shaw (fake)
017 Tim Stannard
018 Pat McMurray
019 Dave Cox
020 Dave French
021 Shirley French
022 Martin Smith
023 Chris O'Shea
024 Roger Robinson
025 Lena Sarah
026 Norman Clinton
027 Chris Bell
028 1/2 r
029 Eve Harvey
030 John Harvey
031 Ian Sorensen
032 Phil Rogers
033 Maureen Speller
034 Paul Kincaid
035 Tony Rogers
036 Peter Mabey
037 Bernie Evans
038 Mick Evans
039 Richard James
040 Steve Jones
041 Adrian Snowdon
042 Dave Ellis
043 Niall M Gordon
044 Freda Warrington
045 Mike Llewellyn
046 Pam Wells
047 John Harold
048 Tony Berry
049 Andrew Stephenson
050 Helen Eling
051 Stan Eling
052 Paul Allwood
053 Dave Thomas
054 Paul Dormer
055 Steve Davies
056 Larry van der Putte
057 Rod Milner
058 Rog Peyton
059 Michael Abbott
060 Caroline Mullen
061 Brian Ameringen
062 Barry Traish
063 Giulia De Cesare
064 Ethel Lindsay
065 W. A McCabe
066 Brian Stovold
067 Julian Headlong
068 Mike Strong
069 Marcus Rowland
070 Peter Weston
071 Eileen Weston
072 Martin Hoare
073 Moria Shearman
074 Mike Ford
075 Susan Francis
076 Sue Harrison
077 Alison Cook
078 Vernon Brown
079 Pat Brown
080 Robert Sneddon
081 Pauline Morgan
082 Chris Morgan
083 Richard Hewison

If you are not on the above list but think you should be contact :-
CAROL MORTON, 14 PARK STREET ,LYE, STOURBRIDGE,
WEST MIDLANDS, DY9 8SS.
Tel : 0384 825386 (Before 8.30pm please)

NOVACON23 : GCSE ANSWERS

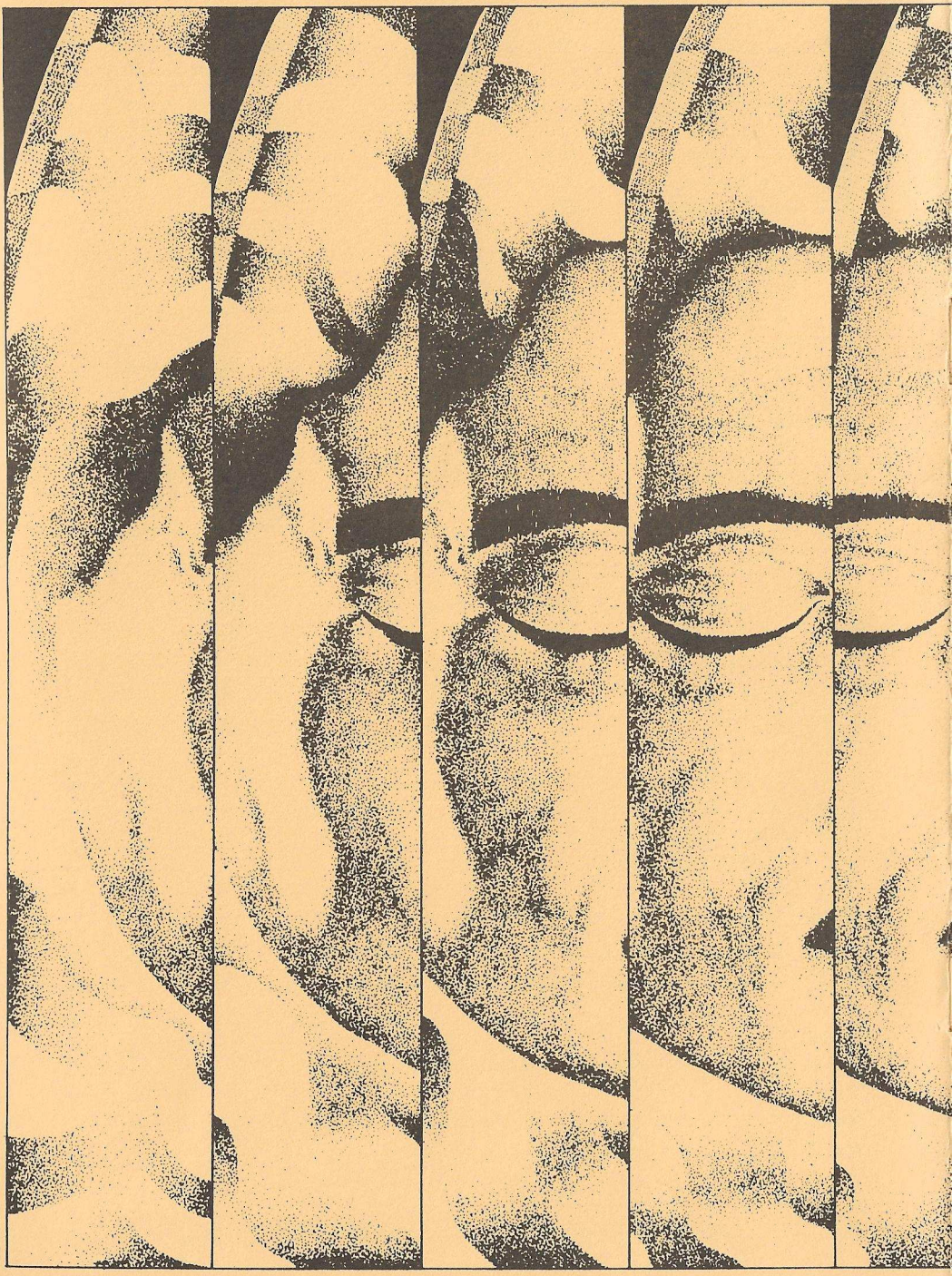
For those of you who completed the GCSE exam set at Novacon 23, we thought you'd like the answers. Listed below are the correct answers in each section.

Section A

1c, 2d, 3e, 4a, 5b, 6e, 7e, 8d, 9a, 10f, 11b, 12c, 13c, 14a, 15c, 16d, 17d, 18e.

Section B

19c, 20b, 21c, 22c, 23d, 24c, 25a, 26e, 27e, 28c, 29d, 30b, 31b, 32e, 33d.

Section C

19c, 20a, 21d, 22e, 23e, 24c, 25e, 26e, 27b, 28e, 29b, 30c, 31d, 32e, 33a.